

ON THE GRAND

On the Grand is a quarterly publication distributed by the Grand River Conservation Authority to member municipalities and other interested persons and groups. It contains capsule news items concerning Conservation Authority programs and projects throughout the valley. Comments and suggestions will be welcome.

Administrative Office:
400 Clyde Road
Box 729, Cambridge, Ontario
N1R 5W6
Telephone: (519) 621-2761
FAX: (519) 621-4844



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Summer 1993



Good News From the Conservation Areas



Continental Kickoff - Over 3000 Girl Guides from more than 44 countries around the world gathered at the Guelph Lake Conservation Area on July 13 to kick off the Guelph '93 International jamboree.

Earlier in the month, the Conservation Area held the annual Guelph Lake Triathlon which is part of a province wide series of triathlons. The 10th anniversary Hillside Festival took place at Guelph Lake on July 23-25, and drew over 8000 visitors. Guelph Lake Superintendent Jim Muir commented, "I would like to see these groups back here in the future. We're also pursuing other large scale events like these. They're very positive and beneficial for the area."

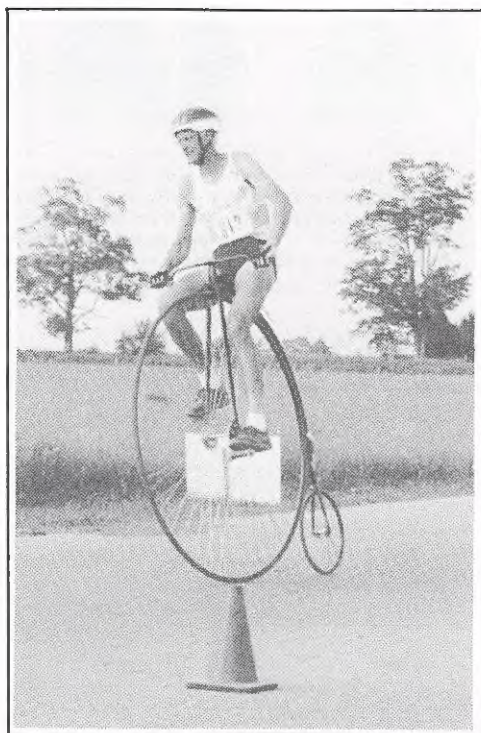
Good News From the Conservation Areas

Continued from Page One

Some other heavily attended events at the Conservation Areas included the Big Brothers Triathlon at the Laurel Creek Conservation Area in Waterloo on June 13, and the Toyota Picnic which drew 1200 visitors to Shade's Mills Conservation Area in Cambridge late in June. The Newfoundlander's Garden Party at Shade's drew over 2000 people on the holiday weekend in July. Overall attendance at the Conservation Areas is much higher than it was during last summer's rainy season.



Following lengthy consideration about the fate of LaFortune Conservation Area near Caledonia, the GRCA's Executive Committee voted on July 9 to transfer title of LaFortune to the Town of Haldimand. LaFortune was one of three parks under study for closure due to financial shortfalls.



It Takes All Kinds - A competitor on a penny farthing barrels down the road at the Guelph Lake Triathlon in July.

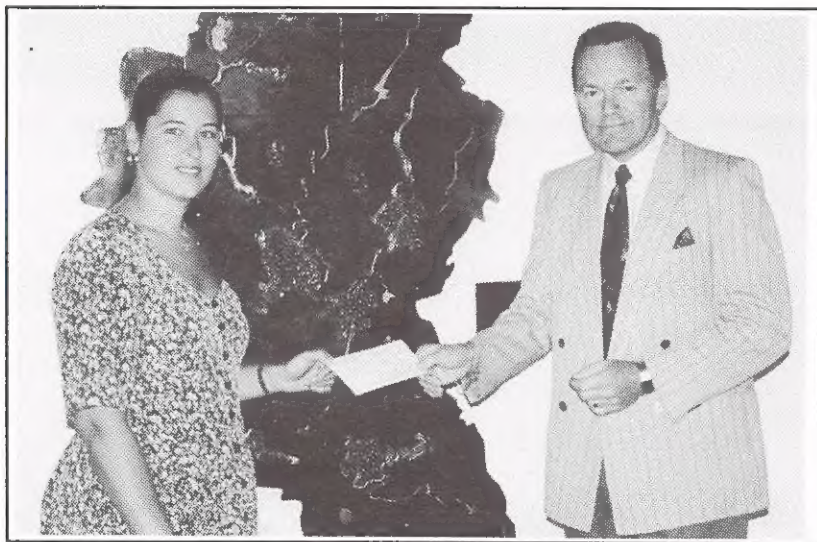


Angling For Fish - A young angler takes part in a fishing derby at Rockwood Conservation Area in July as part of the Visitor Services Program. Visitor Services is proving to be popular again this year at Conservation Areas with campgrounds.



Donations from Watershed Partners

Recently, a number of partners in the Grand River watershed have made donations to support Conservation Authority programs. The Kitchener Chapter of Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment has donated money to support the GRCA's Fairlake Centre.



Partners - Rhonda Schenk of Red Lobster Restaurants presents Chief Administrative Officer Allan R. Holmes with a cheque to support stream rehabilitation on Mill Creek in Cambridge. Red Lobster sold shrimp at Cambridge's Riverfest to raise money for the GRCA.



Wildlife Habitat Canada has made a \$5,000 Communication and Education grant to the GRCA. The grant will also be used to support the Fairlake Centre's mobile education program.

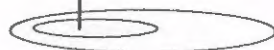
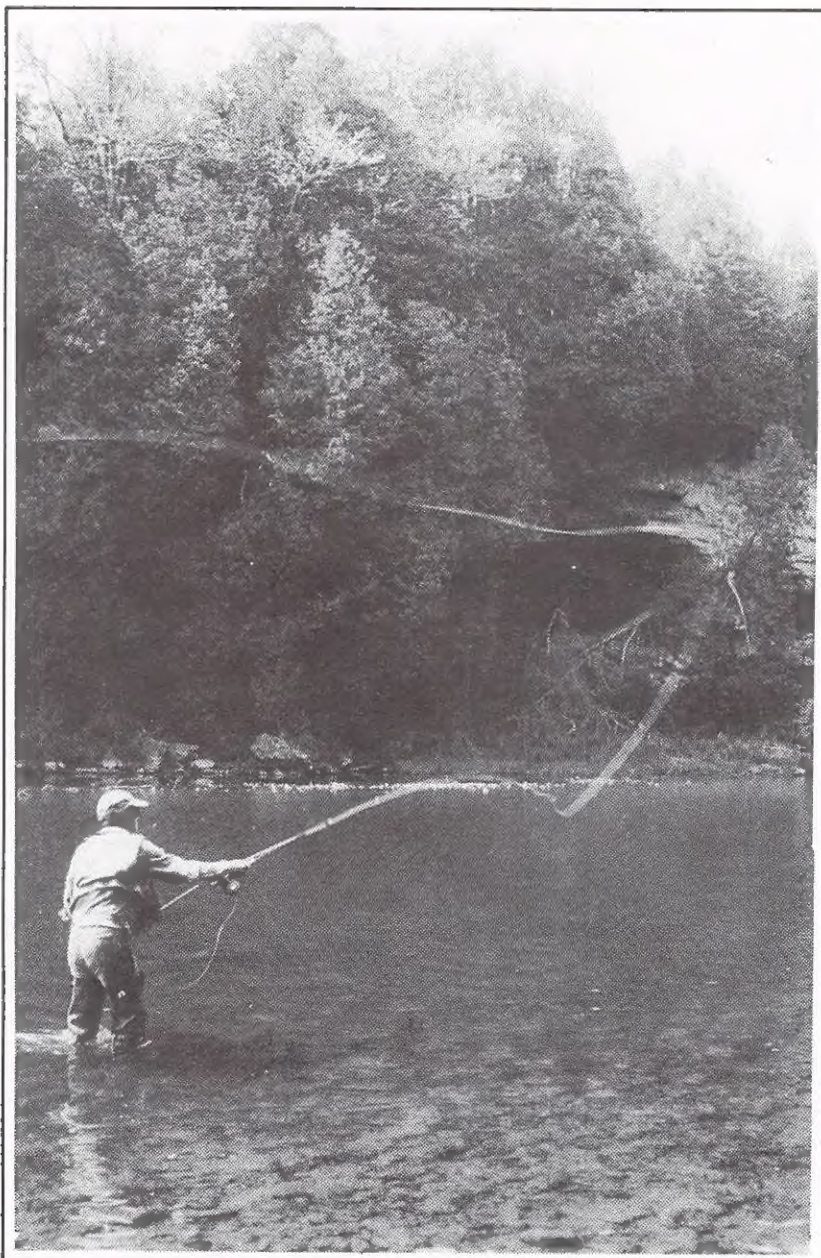
The students of Grand River Collegiate in Kitchener made a donation to the GRCA's Environmental Services section for rehabilitation of Strasburg Creek. Students from the Collegiate have also carried out rehabilitation work on the Creek.

Progress at Dunnville Weir #2

Weir #2 at Dunnville washed out due to high water on the Grand early in January. The Conservation Authority began emergency repairs as soon as possible, but was prevented from proceeding when the Haudenosaunee Environmental Delegation of the Confederacy of Iroquois Chiefs placed a padlock on the access gate to Weir #2. After the GRCA removed the lock, the Haudenosaunee padlocked the gate for a second time on April 18.

At this point, the GRCA asked the contractor to stop work at the site, and various government agencies entered into discussions to get the padlock removed so that emergency repairs to the weir could proceed. On June 18 a representative from the Haudenosaunee removed the padlock. By then the contractor was tied up with other contracts, but returned to the site on July 26.

Who's Fishing the Grand?



Who is? All kinds of people, according to the 1993-1994 edition of the "Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish". And this is no fish story. A survey of anglers across the province indicated that the Grand was the second most frequently fished river in Ontario, finishing just behind the Credit. Sounds like decades of GRCA low flow augmentation, soil and water conservation, and stream rehabilitation are paying off. In the photo, Walt Crawford of Trout Unlimited fly fishes the Grand in the Elora Gorge.

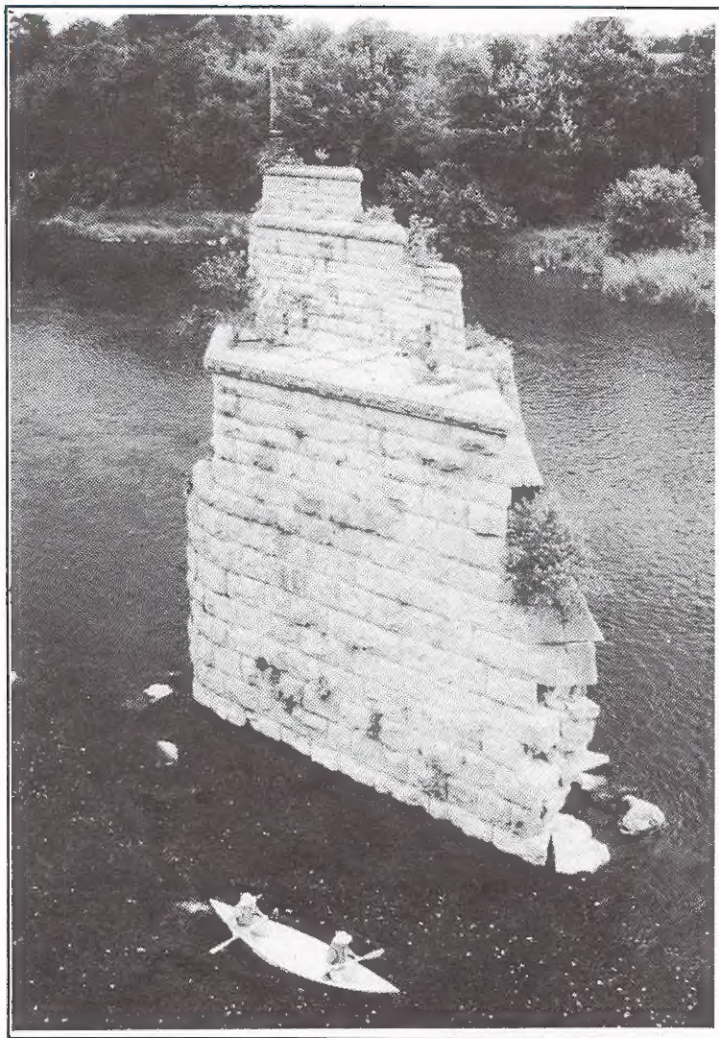
Who's Canoeing the Grand?

CTV, Kanawa and The Grand Tour have all been canoeing the Grand this summer. CKCO-TV has been filming a one hour program about the Grand River that will be broadcast nationally in early 1994. Production involved filming skilled canoeists such as the GRCA's Community Relations Officer Rod Deacon shooting sections of the river from south of Belwood Lake to Port Maitland.

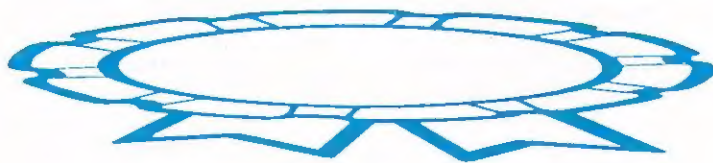
The summer 1993 edition of Kanawa Magazine carried a feature article about canoeing the Grand. In addition, a tourism group called The Grand Tour is promoting recreational opportunities along the Grand River. Members of The Grand Tour include Langdon Hall, Elora Mill Inn, Jakobstettel Guest House, Grand Bicycle Tours, Grand River Canoe Company, and the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Awards of Merit

The Canada Employment Centres for Students in Kitchener and Cambridge recently presented Awards of Merit to the GRCA. The awards recognized the GRCA's outstanding participation in the summer employment program for students. The Conservation Authority directed many postings for summer student jobs to the centres and hired over 40 students as a result of its contact with the Employment Centres.



The Heritage River - Stan Gorecki and Rod Deacon canoe past the old railway footings upstream of the Town of Paris as part of CKCO-TV's new production about the Grand River.



Two Watersheds, One Sign



There's a large new Watershed Divide sign just west of the village of Amulree, on the boundary of the Grand River and Upper Thames Region Conservation Authority (UTRCA) watersheds. The sign was designed and donated by George Kollman, who was a member of the GRCA from 1973 to 1988 and of the UTRCA from 1975 to 1985. Many of Mr. Kollman's friends and family attended the dedication of the sign on June 23. Dignitaries in attendance included GRCA Chairman Archie MacRobbie, UTRCA member for Perth County Murray McTavish, Warden of Perth County and Reeve of North Easthope Bob McTavish, and UTRCA Chairman Don Hocking. (Photo: Ron Fox)

Blueprint for Success

The Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario (ACAO) has been responding on a number of fronts to the Province's Expenditure Control Plan. The ACAO developed "A Blueprint for Success" which was submitted to the Ministers of Natural Resources, Environment and Energy, and Agriculture and Food. This document argued that the watershed role of Conservation Authorities should be strengthened and carried out by reconfigured and restructured Conservation Authorities. It also suggested that duplications of services by ministries and Conservation Authorities should be streamlined and rationalized.

Perhaps the greatest surprise from the Province for the Conservation Authorities was the removal of the Conservation Land Tax Rebate (CLTR). Under this program Conservation Authorities had their municipal taxes on non-revenue generating land rebated from the Province. As part of its Expenditure Control Plan, the Province cancelled this program. Conservation Authorities and many provincial naturalist groups are deeply concerned about the implications of cancelling the CLTR. Without this rebate, how will Conservation Authorities be able to afford to preserve wetlands and floodplains for future generations? The future of the CLTR remains unclear at this time.

For the GRCA, the loss of the CLTR will amount to an additional \$500,000 annual reduction in the budget. In addition, initial indications are that our provincial grant will be reduced by \$700,000.

Snyder Skirts the Lake

Waterloo artist Peter Etril Snyder has now completed all three paintings in his rails to trails series. He finished "Heading for Galt" last year. A new summer scene portrays a steam engine "Skirting the Lake" behind the Shand Dam in 1953. "Stop Along the Line" shows the "Doodlebug" stopped at the Jerseyville station on the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo or "To Hell and Back" (TH&B) line between Brantford and Hamilton in the winter of 1954.

Mr. Snyder will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of prints of these paintings to the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation. This donation will be directed toward the costs of purchasing the Cambridge to Paris, Brantford to Jerseyville, and Elora to Cataract abandoned rail corridors.

The Grand River Conservation Authority completed the purchase of the Elora to Cataract line on August 10. The new rail trail will be jointly maintained by the GRCA, the province and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. The new trail provides an east-west link between the Grand Valley Trail and the Bruce Trail.

Laurel Creek Watershed Study

The Laurel Creek Watershed Policy which took three years to develop has been accepted by the Region [of Waterloo]. The Study contains 29 recommendations directed at the Region and the affected municipalities. The Laurel Creek Study contains important recommendations for groundwater protection, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and the recognition of watershed planning as an important part of Regional planning processes.

GRCA Watershed Studies

The Region will participate financially in studies of the Blair-Bechtel Creek and Mill Creek watersheds to be undertaken by the Grand River Conservation Authority. The Region's share of the cost will be spread over 2 and 3 years.

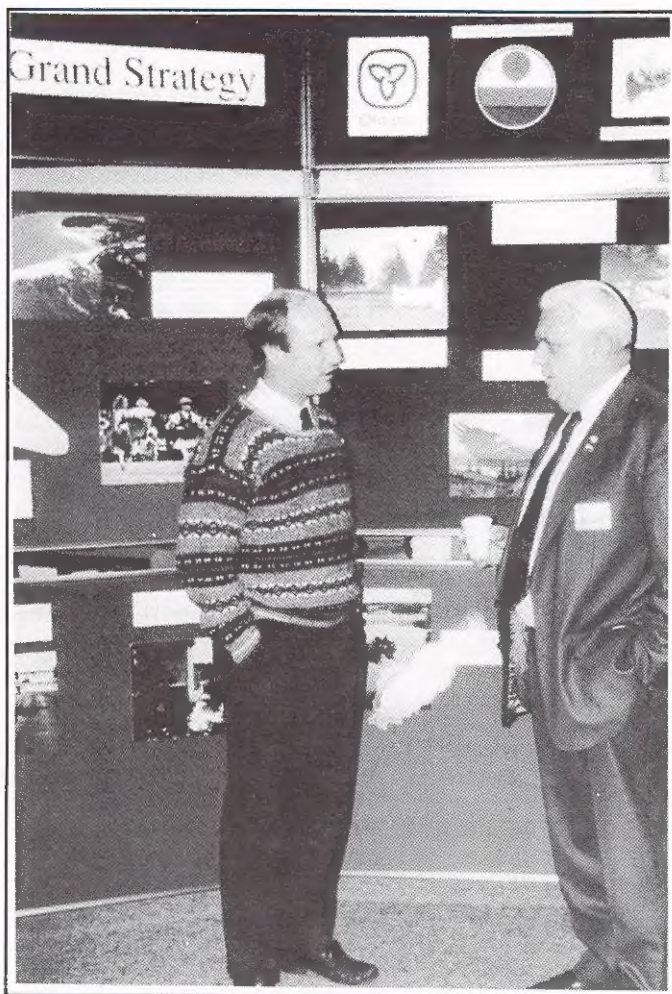
(Both watershed articles reprinted from "Council Info" from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.)

Provincial Appointee Bob Felker

Bob Felker of Cambridge is the new Provincial Appointee to the Grand River Conservation Authority's General Membership. Mr. Felker's background and professional experience are in planning and environmental issues. He is a member of a number of local environmental and planning committees. Mr. Felker is committed to an ecosystem approach to planning and environmental issues that is based on establishing public consensus. Recently, he has attended community consultations and Co-ordinating Committee meetings for the development of "The Grand Strategy" for the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River.

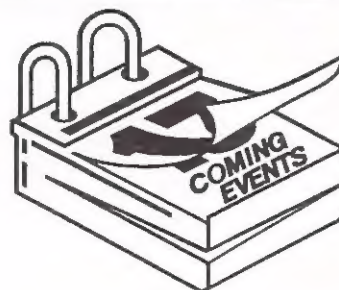


Heritage River Designation Process



The Grand Strategy - GRCA Municipal Planning Manager Paul Emerson chats with Jack Bawcutt, Mayor of the Town of Paris about the Heritage River process.

The community consultations and workshops for developing "The Grand Strategy" concluded in June. Public concerns and comments are being incorporated into the draft of "The Grand Strategy" which will receive public review in October. Following review, the final draft will be submitted for Provincial Ministerial and Canadian Heritage Rivers Board approval.



20 Years Ago Today

Twenty years ago on September 12, 1973, the Conservation Authority opened its new Administrative Centre on Clyde Road in Cambridge. Staff and operations were moved from Jaffray Street and from the two storey stone house east of the new Centre. On the 10th anniversary in 1983, visitors were invited to tour GRCA headquarters. Once again, on the 20th anniversary, visitors are welcome to tour the Administrative Centre from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 12. Events for the day include building tours and a variety of outdoor family activities.

